
A NEW SPECIES OF *PALICOUREA* (RUBIACEAE) FROM COSTA RICA

Palicourea Aublet is a genus of about 200 species of shrubs and small trees found throughout the moist and wet Neotropics, with 24 species presently known from Costa Rica, including this new one. The recent treatment of *Palicourea* in Central America (Taylor, 1989) does not include this species.

Palicourea gomezii C. M. Taylor, sp. nov. TYPE: Costa Rica. Heredia: quebrada Sangrijuela, 700 m, flower & fruit, Gómez, Chacón & Herrera 20896 (holotype, CR; isotype, MO). Figure 1.

Frutex 2–5 m altus, pilosulus. Folia petiolata; laminis ellipticis, 11–20.5 cm long. × 5–9 cm lat., chartaceis, paribus 11–15 venarum secundariarum munitis; stipularum foliacearum laminis interpetiolaribus 8–12 mm longis bilobatis ad partem quartam longitudinis divisis, lobis ovatis. Inflorescentia subsessilis, ex thyrso oblato ramis inferioribus elongatis constans, viridis, 4–4.5 cm long. × 6–8 cm lat.; bracteis 0.5–7 mm longis; pedicellis 1.5–5 mm longis; florum lobis calycinis 1–3 mm longis, in eodem flore inaequalibus; corolla infundibulari basi valde gibbosa, alba colore roseo suffusa, externe glabra, tubo 7 mm longo, lobis 3–5 mm longis. Fructus obovoideus, 6 mm longus.

Succulent shrubs or small trees to 5 m tall, sparsely to densely pilose to pilosulous, sometimes becoming glabrescent in older parts. *Leaves* with *blades* elliptic, at apex acute to acuminate with the tip 0.5–1 cm long, at base acute to cuneate, 11.5–20 cm long, 5–9 cm wide, about 2.2–2.3 times as long as wide, chartaceous, secondary veins 11–15 on each side of costa, widely angled with the costa, widely curving, not looping to connect, with 1(–2) well-marked intersecondary veins present between each pair of secondary veins, margins not revolute; *petioles* 1–5 cm long; *stipules* forming ovate interpetiolar laminae, 8–12 mm long, at apex broadly rounded and emarginate, the sinus between the lobes about 1–3 mm deep. *Inflorescences* rounded to somewhat pyramidal, 4–4.5 cm long, 6–8 cm broad, about 0.5–0.6 times as long as broad at base, peduncles 0–0.5 cm long (the panicle often appearing tripartite), not geniculate at base, bracts triangular to lanceolate, 0.5–7 mm long, those subtending primary branches about 5–

7 mm long and those subtending pedicels about 0.5 mm long; pedicels 1.5–5 mm long; peduncle, branches, bracts, and pedicels green, glabrescent. *Flowers* with *calyx* green, glabrescent, the free portion divided to base, lobes triangular to lingulate, acute, 1–3 mm long and strongly unequal in length on an individual flower; *corolla* carnosae, funnel-form, swollen and strongly gibbous at base, the tube curved at ca. 90° just above the swelling, lilac to rose or white flushed with these colors, externally glabrous, internally glabrous except for a ring ca. 5 mm wide of trichomes just above the basal swelling and extending to the stamen insertion, tube 7 mm long, lobes triangular to lingulate, acute, 3–5 mm long; *anthers* in short-styled flowers 4 mm long; *styles* in short-styled flowers ca. 5 mm long, stigmas 1 mm long. *Infructescences* similar in size and proportion to inflorescences; immature *fruit* obovoid, flattened, 6 mm long; well-developed *pyrenes* not seen.

This new species is distinguished by emarginate laminar stipules with rounded lobes; subsessile or sessile, relatively broad inflorescences; relatively long calyces with unequal lobes 1–3 mm long; and strongly gibbous rose or lilac (or white flushed with these colors) corollas with proportionately long lobes, half or more the length of the corolla tube. Among Central American plants the new species can be confused with *Psychotria copensis* Dwyer from Panama, which is probably better placed in *Palicourea* (Taylor, in prep.). The Panamanian species differs in its usually more numerous secondary leaf veins, (13–)15–24 rather than 11–15; acute rather than rounded stipule lobes; and blue corollas with proportionately shorter lobes, a third or less the length of the tube. *Palicourea gomezii* also resembles an undescribed species from Panama (Taylor, in prep.), which differs in its more contracted inflorescences 2–2.5 cm long by 3–4 cm broad in contrast to 4–4.5 cm long by 6–8 cm broad in *P. gomezii*; pedicels 1–2 mm long in contrast to 1.5–5 mm long in *P. gomezii*; acute stipule lobes; three-veined calyx lobes in contrast to lobes with no evident venation in *P. gomezii*; and farinaceous corollas in contrast to the glabrous corollas of *P. gomezii*.

The epithet honors Sr. Luis Diego Gómez P.,

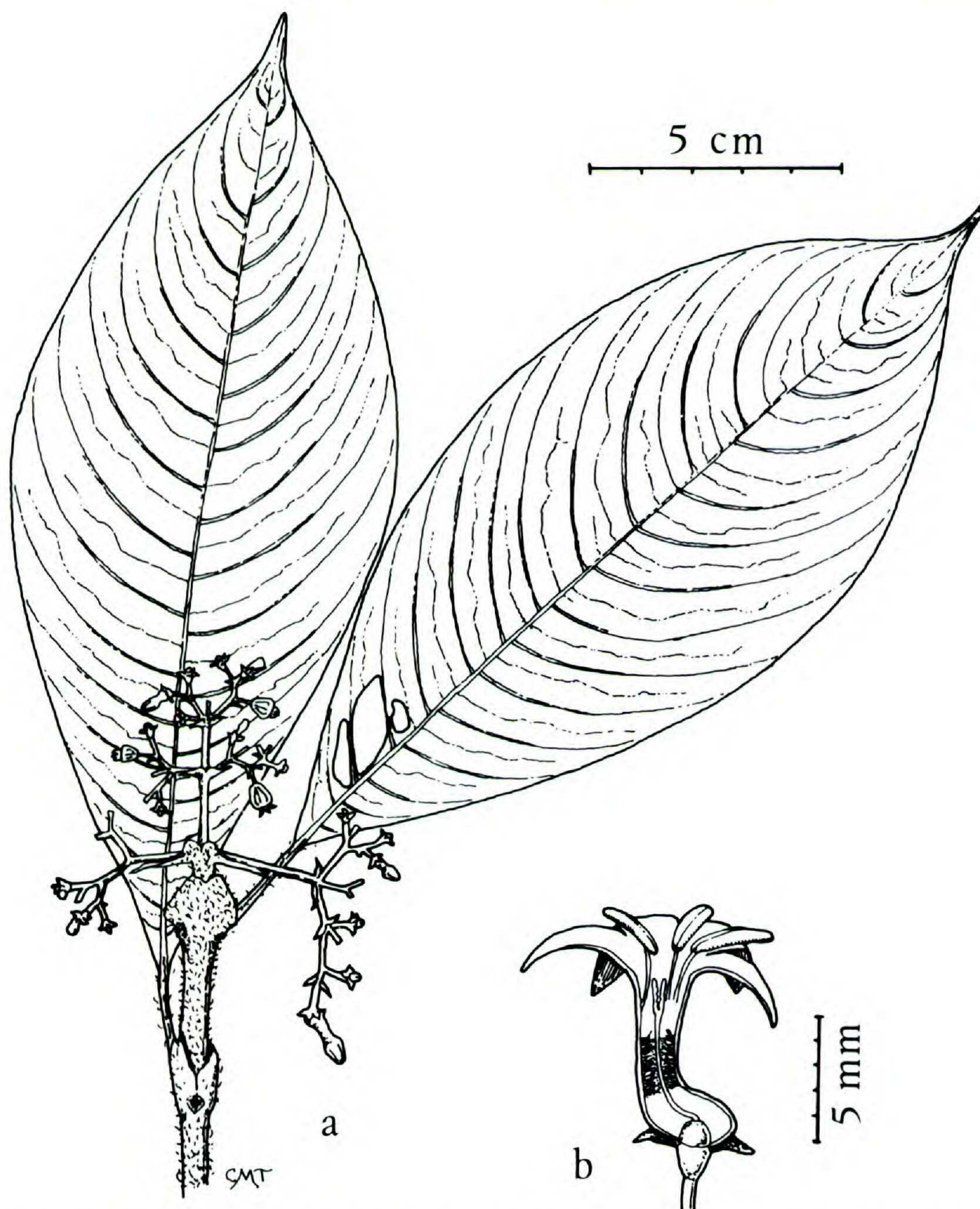


FIGURE 1. *Palicourea gomezii* (Gómez et al. 20896 MO).—a. Inflorescence and node with leaves.—b. Flower, partial longitudinal section.

Director of the Museo Nacional of Costa Rica during a long and productive period.

All flowers examined resemble the short-styled morph of distylous species of *Palicourea*. Relatively few specimens have been seen, however, so this species may be distylous. All the collections seen were collected in January or March and are simultaneously flowering and fruiting.

Paratypes. COSTA RICA. HEREDIA: Ríos Sucio y Honduras, Parque Braulio Carillo, 500 m, *Gómez-Laurito* 6401 (CR); 13 km en la carretera a Guapiles, 800 m, *Gómez-Laurito* 6423 (CR); 11 km E of Cariblanco, 10°16'N, 84°05'W, 1,060 m, *Loiselle* 258 (MO).

I thank the curators of MO and CR who kindly provided specimens for examination. I also thank Roy E. Gereau for assistance with Latin composition, and William Burger, John D. Dwyer, and Barry Hammel for advice.

LITERATURE CITED

TAYLOR, C. M. 1989. Revision of *Palicourea* in Mexico and Central America. *Syst. Bot. Mon.* 26: 1–102.

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